Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-29 (Cancelled).

30. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising polyclonal $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments substantially free from albumin and whole antibodies and substantially free of pyrogens, wherein said $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments are capable of binding to a purified molecule or a mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of a scorpion.

31. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 30, wherein the purified molecule is a venom from a scorpion selected from the group consisting of: *Centruroides noxius, C. limpidus limpidus, C. limpidus tecomanus* and *C. suffussus suffussus*.

32-35. (Cancelled).

36. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising polyclonal $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments substantially free from albumin and whole antibodies and substantially free of pyrogens, wherein said composition is capable of binding and

neutralizing a purified antigenic molecule or mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of a scorpion, and wherein the $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments are obtained by the method which comprises:

(a) contacting a source of antibody with pepsin under conditions to prepare an antibody digest containing $F(ab')_2$ fragments and being substantially free of unhydrolyzed antibodies;

(b) treating said antibody digest by two steps of ammonium sulfate precipitation, i) one step at about 16% to about 22% weight by volume ammonium sulfate; and ii) another step at about 32% to about 38% weight by volume of ammonium sulfate.

37-43. (Cancelled).

44. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 36, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

45. (Previously presented) The $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragment composition of claim 30, further wherein said composition is substantially free of viruses.

46. (Previously presented) A method for preparing a composition of $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments that is substantially free of whole antibodies, comprising:

(a) generating a source of antibodies from an animal that has been immunized with a complex mixture of antigenic molecules;

(b) contacting said source of antibodies with pepsin under conditions to prepare an antibody digest containing $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments wherein said digest is substantially free of unhydrolized antibodies;

(c) treating said antibody digest by two steps of ammonium sulfate precipitation: (i) one step at about 16% to about 22% weight by volume ammonium sulfate to produce a mixture; and (ii) another step at about 32% to about 38% weight by volume of ammonium sulfate; to thereby obtain a suspension containing $F(ab')_2$ fragments substantially free of whole antibodies;

(d) centrifuging said suspension to produce a composition comprising a paste of $F(ab')_2$ fragments and a supernatant; and

(e) removing said supernatant from the composition produced in step (d).

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein step (b) is performed at a pH between about 6.6 to about 7.0.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 wherein said antibody source is the plasma of an animal, and wherein said animal has been immunized under aseptic conditions.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, further wherein said $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragment composition is substantially free of viruses and pyrogens.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein said step (b)(i) is performed at a temperature of about 51°C to about 59°C.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 50, further comprising cooling the mixture produced in step (b)(i) to a temperature from about 8°C to about 12°C for at least 2 hours to produce a composition comprising a solution of $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments, and precipitated serum proteins.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 51, further comprising clarifying said $F(ab')_2$ fragment solution by filtering with a tray filter selected from the group consisting of 12μ, 8μ, 4μ and 0.22μ.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 or claim 48, wherein said resulting $F(ab')_2$ fragment composition is purified.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein said purification is achieved by dialysis or ultrafiltration.

55-60. (Cancelled).

61. (Currently amended) The method of claim 46, wherein said $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments are capable of binding to a purified molecule or a mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of a scorpion.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein said purified molecule is a venom from a scorpion selected from the group consisting of: *Centruroides noxius, C. limpidus limpidus, C. limpidus tecomanus* and *C. suffussus suffussus*.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, wherein said mixture of antigenic molecules is a scorpion venom selected from the group consisting of:

Centruroides noxius, C. limpidus limpidus, C. limpidus tecomanus and *C. suffussus suffussus*.

64-66. (Cancelled).

67. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising polyclonal $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments substantially free of albumin, viral particles, whole antibodies and substantially free of pyrogens, wherein said composition is capable of binding and neutralizing a purified antigenic molecule or mixture of antigenic molecules found in the venom of a scorpion, and wherein the $F(ab')_2$ antibody fragments are obtained by the method which comprises:

(a) generating a source of antibodies from an animal that has been immunized with a complex mixture of antigenic molecules;

(b) contacting said source of antibodies with pepsin under conditions to prepare an antibody digest containing $F(ab')_2$ fragments wherein said digest is substantially free of unhydrolyzed antibodies;

(c) treating said antibody digest by two steps of ammonium sulfate precipitation, i) one step at about 16% to about 22% weight by volume ammonium sulfate; and ii) another step at about 32% to about 38% weight by volume of ammonium sulfate to

thereby obtain a suspension containing $F(ab')_2$ fragments substantially free of whole antibodies;

(d) centrifuging said suspension to produce a composition comprising a paste of $F(ab')_2$ fragments and a supernatant; and

(e) removing said supernatant from the composition produced in step (d).

68-73. (Cancelled).

74. (Currently amended) The composition of claim ~~71~~ 67, wherein said venom is the venom of a scorpion of the family *Butidae.*

75. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 74, wherein said scorpion is selected from the group consisting of: *Centruroides noxius, C. limpidus limpidus, C. limpidus tecomanus* and *C. suffussus suffussus.*

76. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 67, wherein said composition further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.